UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/7/Add.11
7 December 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda items 104 and 59, 61 (1),
62 (b), 63 and 68

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE DENUCLEARIZATION OF AFRICA

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: TRANSPARENCY IN ARMAMENTS

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.14, as orally revised

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.2

Programme budget implications of draft decision A/C.1/47/L.53

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.31/Rev.1

Twelfth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered five statements of programme budget implications relating to

disarmament as contained in documents A/C.5/47/50, A/C.5/47/52, A/C.5/47/63, A/C.5/47/64 and A/C.5/47/65.

2. As stated in document A/C.5/47/63, draft decision A/C.1/47/L.53 calls for the reconvening of the First Committee for five working days in March 1993 and involves the provision of conference servicing at an estimated full cost of $815,900.

3. Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.31/Rev.1 relates to the holding of a session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean in 1993. As shown in document A/C.5/47/52, this would entail conference servicing at an estimated full cost of $454,000.

4. Since provision was included in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 to cover meetings that would subsequently be authorized, the Secretary-General estimates that no additional resources would be required under section 41 as a result of the adoption of both draft decision A/C.1/47/L.53 and draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.31/Rev.1.

5. As explained in document A/C.5/47/50, draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18 relates to activities to be undertaken both in 1993 and 1994; requirements in respect of the 1994 activities will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

6. The activities called for in 1993 relate to the operation and maintenance of the Register of Conventional Arms, as discussed in paragraphs 9 and 10 of A/C.5/47/50. In paragraph 11, the Secretary-General estimates the related additional requirements at $171,300 at full cost, comprising $50,000 for the acquisition of computer hardware and software for system development (start-up costs) and $121,300 for the salary and common staff costs of three additional posts, that is, two Professional and one General Service.

7. However, the Secretary-General further states that, in respect of the staff requirements, in 1993 only one Professional and the General Service staff members would be required and that the Professional post would be redeployed from elsewhere in keeping with the new treatment of vacancies as discussed in his report A/C.5/47/2 and Corr.1.

8. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General concludes that additional requirements totalling $79,500 would arise under section 37, comprising $29,500 in general temporary assistance to finance one General Service staff member and $50,000 for the computer hardware and software for system development and testing.

9. The Advisory Committee is not convinced that an additional appropriation is required at the present stage to cover the computer hardware and software for system development and testing; additional requirements could be reported in the context of the performance report. Nor is the Committee convinced that the amount of $29,500 for general temporary assistance cannot be absorbed from within the overall resources for general temporary assistance provided for

disarmament activities under section 37. It therefore recommends that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18, no additional appropriation be approved under section 37.

10. As stated in A/C.5/47/64, draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.2 would, inter alia, request the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the Central African States in implementing the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). In that connection, the Secretary-General states in paragraph 8 that it is understood that the intent of the sponsors of the draft resolution was that that assistance would be provided through the convening of two meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee in 1993 and that all relevant costs of convening and holding the meetings would have to be borne by the regular budget of the United Nations. The Secretary-General also states his understanding that the United Nations would not be requested to provide conference services and that the meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee would not be included in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1993.

11. The combined costs of the two meetings, which are expected to be held at Bujumbura and Libreville total $203,200. That amount includes $29,500 in conference-servicing costs to cover the rental of conference rooms, interpretation and rental of office equipment. The total of $203,200 also includes provision for the payment of travel and subsistence for governmental representatives. In that connection, the Secretary-General states in paragraph 10 that the payment of travel and subsistence costs to governmental representatives at the meetings would require an exception to the general principle that only members of United Nations organs or subsidiary organs serving in their individual capacities should receive such reimbursements. While the meetings in question do not relate to an organ or subsidiary organ of the United Nations, the Committee was informed that that principle was extended to other meetings convened by the United Nations.

12. As recalled by the Secretary-General, the ministerial-level organizational meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee was convened by the Secretary-General in 1992 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/37 B of 6 December 1991. The First Committee had previously been informed that the related requirements of that meeting would be approximately $90,000, to be financed from extrabudgetary resources. Accordingly, no appropriation had been requested at the forty-sixth session of the Assembly.

13. The estimate of $90,000 also included provision for the travel and subsistence of governmental representatives; in response to inquiries, representatives of the Secretary-General acknowledged that authorization to effect such payment as an exception to the prevailing principle governing such payments should have been sought.

14. Such authority has been sought in relation to the current draft resolution. However, the Advisory Committee would wish to bring to the attention of the Fifth Committee that the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly decision 46/450 of 20 December 1991, has submitted a review

of travel and related entitlements for members of organs and subsidiary organs and staff members of the United Nations, as contained in document A/C.5/47/61. That report has yet to be considered by the Advisory Committee and the Fifth Committee. The Advisory Committee is of the view that until that report is considered, the Fifth Committee may wish to defer action on granting the exception for the payment of travel and subsistence to the governmental representatives to the two meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee.

15. The Advisory Committee is also of the view that renewed efforts should be made to secure some financial input from the host Governments for the provision of conference servicing, particularly since it involves local expenditures.

16. In the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.2, no additional appropriation should be approved at the present stage under under section 37 of the programme budget and that no exception to pay for travel and subsistence costs of government representatives should be granted at the present stage.

17. As outlined in document A/C.5/47/65, draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.14, as orally revised, would request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to take appropriate action to enable the group of experts designated by the United Nations in cooperation with OAU to meet during 1993 at Harare to draw up a draft treaty or convention on the denuclearization of Africa.

18. In that connection, the Secretary-General states his understanding that the United Nations would not be requested to provide conference services and that the meeting of experts would not be included in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1993. However, the regular budget of the United Nations would bear all costs related to the convening of the meeting. Those costs are estimated at $72,300, as outlined in paragraph 7, and include $13,600 in conference-servicing costs for the rental of the conference room, interpretation, the rental of office equipment and translation.

19. In keeping with its recommendation regarding draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.2, the Advisory Committee believes that an effort should be made for the host Government to bear the conference-servicing costs. With regard to the substantive costs, which are estimated at $58,700, it recommends that an effort be made to absorb them from existing appropriations under section 37 and that the Secretary-General report accordingly in the context of the performance report.

20. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that, should draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.14, as orally revised, be adopted, no additional appropriations be authorized under section 37 of the programme budget at the present stage.